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but showed the most effectual way for a vessel to sail in a straight line over a curved surface and thereby solved what was before one of the most difficult problems of navigation.

OBITUARY.—Dr. J. G. Kohl died at Bremen, his native city, October 28, 1878. He was born April 28, 1808. He was very widely known as the author of a very large number of geographical works and books of travel. These include accounts of travels in Russia, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Great Britain and Ireland, Denmark, Styria, the Alps, Netherlands, Dalmatia and Montenegro, etc. He came to America in 1854, and spent four years in travel, of which he told in books on Canada and the north-western States and Territories. He also wrote several works and papers on the early history, folklore and maps of America. One of his latest productions, remarkable for its learning and research, was a history of the discovery and voyages made to Magellan Straits.¹ He made many friends when in this country, and was a member of several of our historical and scientific societies.

Nicholas de Kanikoff, a Russian Orientalist, died near Paris on November 15, 1878. Born October 24, 1819, he at the age of twenty accompanied Gen. Perovski's unfortunate expedition to Khiva, and afterwards traveled much in Asia, especially in Bokhara, Persia (where he was Russian Consul General) and Afghanistan. He published (1845) Bokhara, its Amir and its People, and (1861) a Memoir on the Southern Part of Central Asia, for which the French Geographical Society gave him its gold medal. These and several other works are the source of much of our information concerning Central Asia.

MICROSCOPY.²

NEW MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETIES.—The Microscopical Society of Camden, N. J., was organized November 7, 1878, with eighteen members. Meetings are held on the first Thursday evening of every month, at the residences of members. The following are the officers for 1879: President, Albert P. Brown, Ph. G.; secretary and treasurer, Joseph L. De La Cour; managers, Harry S. Fortiner, C. Henry Kain, Samuel S. Cochran; curator, Alfred W. Test.

A Microscopical section of the Cincinnati Natural History Society has been recently formed, with fifteen or twenty members. Meetings are held on the first Friday evening of each month, at the rooms of the Society, with good attendance and the promise of interesting and valuable work.

The Rochester Microscopical Society was organized January 27, 1879, with a membership of nearly forty persons. From

¹ Geschichte der Entdeckungsreisen und Schifffahrten zur Magellan's-strasse und zu den ihr benachbarten Landern und Meeren. Von J. G. Kohl. Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin, 1876. XI band, pp. 315 and 405.

² This department is edited by Dr. R. H. Ward, Troy, N. Y.

the number of prominent microscopists in that vicinity, an active and successful society may be looked for. The first officers are as follows: President, Prof. S. A. Lattimore; vice-president, C. C. Merriman; secretary, Dr. E. Line; treasurer, Dr. C. E. Rider.

AMERICAN QUARTERLY MICROSCOPICAL JOURNAL.—This new journal is published by Hitchcock and Wall, at No. 150 Nassau street, New York. The second number, just published, fully justifies the promise of the first, and establishes the Journal as a carefully edited and liberally published work, characterized by an abundance of elaborate memoirs upon microscopical subjects. Illustrations of a high grade are introduced when required. An able summary is also given of recent news and publications; though it may be doubted whether the news as such, can be given in a quarterly with sufficient promptness to meet all the requirements of modern science. It only remains for those who use the microscope or study its revelations to decide whether they will render the new enterprise permanent by making it self-sustaining. A good subscription list is all that is required in addition to what the proprietors have already accomplished.

SALE OF A MICROSCOPICAL LIBRARY.—The library of the late Jno. E. Gavitt is now being broken up, and catalogues of the books for sale can be obtained from his son, W. E. Gavitt, of Stockbridge, Mass. The library includes many rare and almost inaccessible works, which will be doubly valuable as mementos of one of the earliest American cultivators of Microscopy. Mr. Gavitt also possesses a very fine copper-plate portrait of old Anthony von Leeuwenhoek, which, though not specified in the catalogue, could probably be obtained by any one who would appreciate it at its real value.

SPRING CLIPS.—E. H. Hawley, of 102 Grove street, New Haven, Conn., has recently made spring clips for the use of several distinguished histologists. The clips are very light and neat, being made of light steel wire, and having a leather disk instead of a cork to press on the cover. They can be bought for seventy-five cents per dozen.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— WE are sorry to learn that the Legislatures of Georgia and North Carolina have suspended the geological surveys of those States. This is much to be regretted, since both regions will amply repay to the people the small amounts heretofore expended on them, if only continued long enough to permit the results to be elaborated and published. These measures are a blow at the educational interests of those States which we had not looked for from so-called "reform" legislatures.